

Historical WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER recaps (in the pages of *Washington Chess Letter* and *Northwest Chess*) by Russell Miller

1949-1989 at ten-year intervals

January 1949 (WCL)

From the Jan. 1959 WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER by R. R. Merk

A letter from E.H. Shary, former secretary of the Portland Chess Club for 10 years was published outlining his reasons for excluding Master players from Northwest tournaments for the reason that they were professionals and the other competitors were amateurs. Also it was advanced that by permitting Masters to compete would have a tendency to keep other players from competing. He also proposed that local tournaments be called "Pacific Northwest Amateur Chess Championship" tournaments.

The Editor published an editorial in answer to Mr. Shary, advancing the idea that any player who played in a tournament in which prizes were awarded was no longer an amateur and that therefore the differentiation between amateur and professional would automatically eliminate most of our Northwest players as all of them at one time or another participated in tournaments for prizes, so that the elimination of Masters could not be justified on that score. He also pointed out that local Experts and players of lower caliber would welcome an opportunity to pit their skill against any of the Masters as otherwise they would not have such an opportunity unless they went to the East to participate in eastern tournaments. He also pointed out that Masters would not endanger their standing by participating in tournaments where players of lower caliber participated. They would still be Master players.

A Pacific Northwest Experts Tournament was announced for April 2nd & 3rd, 1949. It was expected that Ulvestad, Joachim, Dake and Schmitt with some entries from British Columbia would participate.

Charles Joachim won the 1948 Washington State Chess championship, which was played at the Seattle Chess Club, with a score of 5.5 to 0.5. Runner up was Nourse.

Joachim was awarded the title of Expert by the Washington Chess Federation for having twice won the Seattle City Championship.

The Skagit Chess Club found it impossible to continue with a team in the Puget league tournaments.

Fourth round results in Puget Sound League tournaments give Bellingham a 7 to 3 win over Olympia. Tacoma beat University 7 to 3. Seattle took Everett for 7.5 to 2.5. Queen Anne clobbered YMCA with 8 to 2.

A Northwest Washington tournament was announced for Jan. 29 & 30 in the YMCA in Everett as a 6-round Swiss. Players limited to residents of San Juan, Skagit, Island, Whatcom and Snohomish counties and membership in the WCF. Entry fee \$1.00. First prize of 2 electric clocks with chess clock converter. Tournament Director Lawrence Taro.

Olaf Ulvestad continued with his series of articles describing his trip to Russia on the American team that competed in the September 1946 chess tournament 10-man team, versus the Russians in Moscow. He stayed at the Hotel Metropole with the other members of the American team. His quarters were on the 5th floor ... a large fairly well furnished room with bath. The bath fixtures were of a vintage of about 30 years ago with uncertain hot water. "Cockroaches were numerous. They seemed to love the warm steam pipes, around and about which they assembled in varying numbers. A morning call on the telephone to the hotel desk was sufficient to bring a waiter to the room with breakfast. The other two meals were served banquet style in a second floor dining room. Incidentally, the Russian diet is heavy on pork, fish and fowl and is light on beef and mutton. Much bread and rice are consumed. Potatoes seem neither plentiful nor popular. Tea is universally popular, coffee is practically non-existent."

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In a "Potpourri" article, Editor Dan Wade reported a nice Christmas present to himself of some money from Kitsap, West Seattle and Latvian chess teams. He suggested that a collection be taken at the next tournaments of some money to be given to the tournament director. His suggestion for team members to take on a group from British Columbia was: Zemgalis, Ulvestad, McCormick, Pupols, Seglins, Patterson, Manney and Joachim.

There was a full page ad for the 1959 Washington Open to be held at Seattle University on Jan 24-25. Entry fee of \$3.00 with \$2.00 for juniors. It was to be a 6-round Swiss. Lots of Puget Sound League play results were reported: Seattle CC vs. The Latvians 5-5 tie, West Seattle downing McNeil Island 6.5-3.5, Kitsap County 7 to Olympia's 3. As of Dec. 15 the Latvian group was leading the league crosstable. Oliver LaFreniere of Yakima wrote a letter to the Editor complaining about the arrangements for the Washington Open ... starting too early on Saturday and ending too late on Sunday were his problems with the event.

The ladder standings for the U of W Chess Club listed 21 players. A book review of TREASURE OF CHESS LORE by Fred Reinfeld was printed. A report on Portland Junior League gave results of matches between high school teams: Clackamas over Lincoln 10-0, Lake Oswego 8 Cleveland 4, Roosevelt also 6-4 over Grant. Clackamas 9-1 over Cleveland, Grant 10-0 over Lake Oswego and Roosevelt scoring 8-2 win over Lincoln.

Junior Chess in Idaho had a full page report. A tournament at Wallace High School drew 16 players with Stephen Sala winning 5-0. Wallace downed Kellogg in a match 10-0. On page and a half of news from Yakima, a match Yakima vs. Richland was won by Yakima 7.5-6.5. LaFreniere was listed on top of the Yakima CC ladder of 15 players. Yakima Juniors match with Kennewick was won by Yakima 8-2.

In more news from Yakima events a report about the 1958 Northwest Junior Open held there lists a tie-break win for Mike Franett over Bob Holziner and Danny Towne when all three scored 4.5-1.5 in the 16 player event.

R.R. Merk did a report on what was in the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER of Jan 1949 (see above). Editor Dan Wade also played postal chess and was on top of the rating ladder for this issue.

January 1969 (NWC)

The January 1969 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS has 16 pages printed on white paper with Russell Miller of Yakima as editor. The magazine at that time was mailed from Yakima via third class bulk rate mail and printed by Shields Bag & Printing of Yakima. I brought a lot of bags from them as purchasing agent for Valley Evaporating Company of Yakima so they were probably doing this small print job as a favor to me. I had help with the issue from Buz Eddy of Kent as Publisher/Tournament News Washington, Peter J. Olson of Seattle as Rating Director, my wife as Circulation Director, John R. Ward of Tacoma was Postal Director, Richard Vandenburg of Boise as Intermountain Editor, Harry Glidden of Medford as Oregon Editor, Bob Eldridge of Burnaby BC as BC Editor, Howie Chin of Seattle as High School Editor and Bob Zuk of North Surrey BC as Games Editor.

The magazine reports that Jeff Fox of Mercer Island was the winner of the 40-player Northwest Junior held at the Seattle Chess Club in December. The Northwest Junior Trophy was awarded to Mike Montchalin of Happy Valley, Oregon for having the best scores in the Washington Junior, Oregon Junior and Northwest Junior. He and one other, Steve Loyland, played in all three events. Dennis Waterman had won the trophy in 1968.

Boise Chess Club downed a group from Canyon County Club 5.5-4.5.

The 4th quarter of 1968 Northwest rating report listed 7 masters, 32 experts, 105 Class A, 163 Class B, 183 Class C, 139 Class D and below players. The masters were Peter Biyiasas, Ivars Dalbergs, Rick Ganong, Clark Harmon, L. Kawamura, Viktors Pupols and Duncan Suttles. Some of the players on the list that I noticed that are still active players today are: Pat Herbers 2045, Pat Hickey 2007, Mike Murray 2057, Peter O'Gorman 2000, Ed Addis 1860, Randy Dean 1979, Mike Montchalin 1956, Ernst Rasmussen 1981, David Rupel 1950, Mike Schemm 1963, Bruce Harper 1715, Tim Kauppila 1636, Russell Miller 1708, Darby Monahan 1785, Marvin Hayami 1532, Carl Haessler 1208.

From the 20-15-10-5 years ago column it was reported that Ivars Dalbergs won the 1964 Washington Open on tie-break with Viktors Pupols; 56 players took part. Boeing lead the Puget Sound League with 4-0 match score.

There was an article listing the past winners of a number of Northwest tournaments. Some of the 1968 winners were Viktors Pupols - Seattle Seafair, James McCormick - Puget Sound Open, Mike Murray - Inland Empire Open, James McCormick - Washington Championship (his 4th in a row), Ante Zaradic - Washington Open, Rick Ganong - Seattle City Championship, Fred Schulz - Peace Arch Open, Pat Herbers - March of Dimes, Ante Zaradic - British Columbia Open, Milo Nelson - Washington Junior, Mike Montchalin - Oregon Junior, Jeff Fox - Northwest Junior. Rick Ganong - Evergreen Empire Open, Viktors Pupols - Interstate Open, Ivars Dalbergs - Oregon Open.

Harry Glidden in his Oregon Chess News section suggested that gift memberships be promoted. Grants Pass High downed Medford Mid High 4-1. Klamath Falls High was the winner over Medford Senior High 3-2. Ashland topped Phoenix also 3-2, Medford Sr. High 5-0 over Phoenix, Klamath Falls 5-0 over Medford Middle School, Medford Senior

High 4-0 over Grants Pass, Grants Pass 3-2 over Ashland and Ashland 3-2 over Medford Middle School.

14 players took part in the Seattle Chess Club Fall Winter event. Winner with a 4-0 score was Svend Monred. Pat Herbers and Tim Kauppila were able to get draws in an 8-player simul given by Viktors Pupols at the Club. Vik was also giving lesson at the Club.

An ad appears for the Cleveland Chess Bulletin, editor of which was James Schroeder, for which the subscription rate was \$3.00 per year.

High School in Chess column by Howie Chin had a report from the Seattle Metro League by Norm Hardy. This league had a rating system which listed Milo Nelson as the top rated player. Cleveland High beat Roosevelt in a league match 3-2. Marvin Hayami was 2nd board for Cleveland. Queen Anne and Mt. Rainer drew at 2.5. Franklin topped Rainier Beach 3-2. After 8 rounds of league play Queen Anne was the top team with 7 won matches and 1 drawn. 25 players took part in a Seattle Metro League Tornado with Owen Overton of Roosevelt the winner at 4-0. Tim Kauppila directed and finished 2nd in the event.

The BC Woodpusher event with 20 players was won by D. Collins on tie-break over Russ Vogler when both scored 5-1.

John Ward reported Richard Schultz on top of the postal rating list. Washington was leading a match against Oregon 4.5-3.5 with two games still in progress. John reported his retirement as an officer of the Tacoma Chess Club for at least 1 year. He had some advice for the new officers, attract junior players was one of the points. Ernst Rasmussen won the Crusaders Chess Club Fall event. Vernon Holmes once again won the Tacoma Chess Club Crown with 5.5-.5 over 19 others.

David Collyer of Wenatchee won the 6 player Yakima Junior 5-0.

The Buz Eddy-developed W.C.F. Master Points list had Jim McCormick, Viktors Pupols and Pat Herbers on the top of the listing. The points were based on scores and median tie-break points acquired in tournaments requiring WCF membership.

The rest of the interview by Jude Acers of GM Bent Larsen was printed. A quote from that is "even my father has come to like my profession despite earlier warnings that I had gone mad."

In the Puget Sound League report Marysville topped Bellevue 7-3, Seattle CC 6.5-3.5 for Bellevue, Bellingham 6-3 over Tacoma. Boeing A, Bellingham and Seattle CC all had 4-1 match scores at this point in league play.

January 1979 (NWC)

The January 1979 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS has lots of pictures on the cover, the contenders in the 1979 Oregon Championship. Page 2 was a full page ad for the 1979 Canadian Open to be held in Edmonton Alberta in July. Robert Karch of Seattle was the editor of this issue. A 32-page issue this month and mailed by 2nd class mail from Olympia WA.

Larry Swan has taken over the duties of NW Postal Chess Director.

The tournament announcement of the 1979 Washington High School Team Championship was printed. The event was held at the Puyallup High School and required WCF membership for all players.

The Postal Chess section was three pages this month. Borek H. Groschl (he also won the Easy Money Open 4.5-.5 over 19 others in Sept-Oct 1978) was the top rated player on the rating list at 2501. Now IM John Donaldson was number 4 then. Some other names of players who I think are still active in chess on the rating list were: Jim Hanlen 2017, Michael Mulford 1917, Jack Grigsby 1887, Norman Abrahamson 1842, David Surratt 1835, Jack Schrader 1766, Robert Karch 1764, Karl Schoffstoll 1685.

John Donaldson, second for Yasser Seirawan at the 1978 World Junior, gave a report on the event for NWC. Sergeir Dolmstov of USSR won the event. Yasser scored 7-6 and tied for 13th place.

Oregon Editor Larry Ball of Portland reported for NWC the results of the Oregon Junior. Jay Collins of Corvallis won the event 5-0. More Oregon news was the Madras Chess Day event won by Mike Wauge of Prineville, OR. The Oregon Junior Open also won by Jay Collins over 19 others with 4.5-.5. Another event in Madras was won by James Bricher of Cottage Grove 5-0 over 16 other players. The Portland Autumn Open drew 80 players which Yasser Seirawan of Seattle won 5-0 good for \$110.00 prize. Herman Chiu then of Lakewood, NJ was 2nd at .5 behind.

International ratings for Northwest players were printed: GM Duncan Suttles of Canada 2470, NM Yasser Seirawan 2455, GM Peter Biyiasas of Canada 2450, IM John Grefe of Oregon 2430, NM Bruce Harper of Canada 2365, IM Arthur Dake of Portland 2355 and NM Dennis Waterman of Oregon 2295.

Ellensburg Grand Prix No. 2 drew 8 players and was won by Jeff Treder of Ellensburg 3-0. Wenatchee GP #1 was won by David Collyer of Wenatchee 3-0.

The Church's Fried Chicken USA simul tour came to Seattle with Senior Master Jack Peters doing the exhibition. He won 14, drew 3 and lost 1. Kevin Casey beat the master and Bobby Ferguson was among those drawing. Dana Muller also drew.

Russ Ridderbusch won the Washington Junior Closed. Bryon Monohon was the Open section winner.

William Cowell was elected President of the Boeing Chess Club.

Neil Salmon of Tacoma was the Washington Challenger's Cup winner held at the Tacoma Chess Club. 31 players took part.

January 1989 (NWC)

Editor James Blackwood of Seattle produced 16 pages for the January 1989 NORTHWEST CHESS. A short report on the marriage of IM John Donaldson of Seattle to International Women's GM Elena Akhailovskaya of USSR and a welcome to Elena to the Pacific Northwest were given.

John Graves scored 5-0 in the Washington Junior Championship with Mike Oshiro 2nd at 3.5-1.5. John's win over Robert Dixon was given with notes by the editor.

Cleveland High School is favored to win the Seattle Metro League for 88-89. Eleven schools are fielding 14 teams.

A team from INSIDE CHESS is leading the Puget Sound League play.

Twenty three players took part in the Spokane CC Open, which was won by D. Perteet of Pullman with 5-0 score. The Spokane CC Open #3 resulted in a tie between David Collyer and Bill Phillip. Karla Phillip won three scholastic events held in Spokane in a row.

Bruce Moreland topped the Seattle CC October Swiss 4-0. John Graves won the Tacoma Class Championship 4.5-5. Marvin Hayami was 2nd.

The 1988 Portland Tornado open section ended in tie between Ralph Dubisch and Bill McGeary. Robert Ball won the reserve section 4-0. Novice top prize went to Tim Julkowski 3.5-.5.

An OSU student from Singapore, Yew Chiang Ong, won the Great Pumpkin with 4.5-.5.

Robert Karch, WCF President gave the Washington Report for this issue. It included the schedule of WCF officers meetings for the year. He reported there were three active High School Leagues: TAPCO, METRO and WESCO. The chess events scheduled around the Karpov-Hjartarson candidates match to be held at the Lakeside School in Seattle was given. The editor gave a couple of examples of Hjartarson's play including a loss to Karpov in 1988. Several readers predicted a win for Karpov in the match.

Kristen Dietsch was the Postal Chess Director at this time. The top rated player was John Penquite.